

Control and Reclamation Amendments Act of 1995.

The hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 23, 1996 at 9:30 a.m. in room SD 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

Those wishing to testify or who wish to submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Michael Flannigan of the Subcommittee staff at 202-224-6170.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee to review the socioeconomic impacts of the Department of the Interior's regulatory requirements and planning process.

The hearing will take place on Saturday, April 13 at 9 a.m. in Rock Springs, WY. The exact location to be announced at a later date.

Those wishing to testify or submit written statements should write to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. For further information, please call Kelly Johnson or Jo Meuse at (202) 224-6730.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION, AND RECREATION

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 17, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of this hearing is to review S. 128, a bill to establish the Thomas Cole National Historic Site in the State of New York; S. 695, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Kansas; and S. 1476, a bill to establish the Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, 364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510-6150.

For further information, please contact Jim O'Toole of the subcommittee staff at (202) 224-5161.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. GOHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Strategic

Forces Subcommittee of the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 29 in open session, to receive testimony on arms control, cooperative threat reduction program, and chemical demilitarization in review of the defense authorization request for the fiscal year 1997 and the future years defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. GOHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 22, 1996, at 10 a.m. in SH216.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND FORCES

Mr. GOHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland Forces be authorized to meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 29, 1996, to receive testimony on Army and unmanned aerial vehicle [UAV] modernization efforts in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 1997 and the Future Years Defense Program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. GOHEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Governmental Affairs, be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Friday, March 22, 1996, to hold hearings on the Global Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Part II.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

MINIMUM WAGE AMENDMENT

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I wanted to take just a minute to comment on the amendment offered by Senators KERRY and KENNEDY to raise the minimum wage from \$4.35 an hour to \$5.15 an hour over the next 2 years and why I oppose closing debate on this amendment at this time.

In my mind, few issues better define the differences between Republicans and Democrats than efforts to raise this starting wage. On the one hand, members of the Democratic Party seek to increase living standards through a Government mandate. On the other, Republicans are seeking to increase family incomes by cutting Federal taxes, reducing regulatory burdens, and increasing job opportunities. Democrats believe in Government while Republicans place their faith in families and individuals.

The case for the minimum wage has been refuted time and again. Far from raising living standards, studies show

the minimum wage actually hurts the very workers its supposed to help. Harvard economist Robert Barro argues that "the minimum wage misses the mark because it worsens the status of most disadvantaged youths."

Economist David Neumark of my alma mater, Michigan State University, and William Wascher of the Federal Reserve have concluded that raising the minimum wage to \$5.15 an hour would result in over 500,000 lost job opportunities for teenagers and young adults. Fully 77 percent of the members of the American Economic Association believe an increase in the minimum wage eliminates entry-level jobs.

Mr. President, under President Clinton's tenure, American families have seen their incomes stagnate while their tax burden have gone up. This Clinton crunch is forcing millions of families to get by with less. That's why the Republican Congress offered hard-working American families tax cuts like the \$500 per child family tax credit, marriage penalty relief, and expanded individual retirement accounts. We wanted to let families keep more of what they earn, so they could finance their own priorities, not the Government's. These efforts were cut short when President Clinton vetoed the bill.

Now, the President and his party are pressing forward to mandate higher standards of living through Government action. This effort is misdirected and destructive. Furthermore, its timing is suspect. I am troubled that the same week this issue is raised on the Senate floor, the AFL-CIO has pledged to raise and spend \$35 million through November to defeat Republican candidates.

If this issue is so pressing, why did President Clinton and congressional Democrats fail to bring it up in 1993 and 1994, when they controlled both the White House and the Congress? They joined hands to raise taxes on American families in 1993, but at no time during the last Congress did they ever consider raising the minimum wage. Now, with a Republican majority in Congress and the labor unions pledging them record financial support, raising the minimum wage becomes a priority.

Mr. President, I am unwilling to turn my back on low-skilled workers or to sacrifice their interests for an ideological and political agenda. Nor am I willing to impose another unfunded mandate on small business men and women across the country. For that reason, I oppose closing debate on this amendment at this time, and I call on my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to assist all working families by reducing the real barriers to higher wages and living standards—excessive taxes and regulations.●

GREEK INDEPENDENCE

●—Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to salute the Greek people, who on March 25 commemorated the 175th Anniversary of the beginning of their